



Both the Opportunity and Lottery Scholarships are making a difference for more than **36,000 New Mexico students** and we are leading the nation in college access and affordability.



## BACKGROUND

New Mexico was the first state in the nation to establish a tuition promise program with the **Lottery Scholarship** in 1996 and has since become a national leader in college access and enrollment growth following the passage of the **Opportunity Scholarship Act** in 2022. Under the leadership of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and with the bipartisan support of the Legislature, both the **Opportunity and Lottery Scholarships** are fully funded, and more New Mexicans are benefiting from tuition-free college now than at any time in state history.

New Mexico is leading the nation in developing higher education policies that consider the needs and real costs of college for students in the state. Increased enrollment trends across New Mexico demonstrate that traditional, non-traditional, and returning adult learners are entering college and university classrooms in higher numbers and seeking out credentials that will improve economic mobility, provide pathways to family-sustaining incomes, and strengthen overall community wealth.

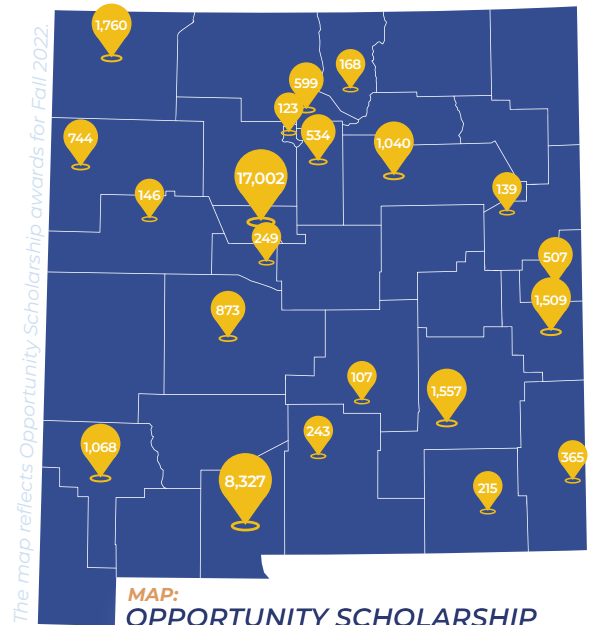
With your partnership, the New Mexico Higher Education Department will continue to emphasize the whole student experience by supporting financial access to college, student success services, and student basic needs initiatives. By addressing the true costs of college and cultivating a sense of belonging, New Mexico's students will access college, persist, and graduate with high-need certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees. **Graduates will be poised to enter the workforce trained and ready to be a part of the state's economic prosperity, and this not only positively impacts individuals, but it also impacts the wellbeing of New Mexico's public health.**

## STATE FINANCIAL AID

The New Mexico Higher Education Department manages **24 financial aid programs**, including scholarships, loan repayment programs, and loan-for-service programs.

*State-Funded Programs:*

**\$223,283,500**



## STATEWIDE IMPACT OF STATE-FUNDED FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

New Mexico has dramatically increased college-going rates following passage of the Opportunity Scholarship Act, experiencing the **second-highest enrollment growth of any state in the nation during the Fall 2022 semester at over four percent** and another six percent increase was achieved this past spring. Over 36,000 New Mexicans are currently benefiting from the Opportunity Scholarship and over 11,000 students are receiving the Lottery Scholarship.



**ENROLLMENT & OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP  
 DATA SPOTLIGHT**

**NEW MEXICO HAS INCREASED  
 ENROLLMENT FOR THE FIRST  
 TIME IN A DECADE**

Research Institutions	+1.8%
Comprehensive Universities	+4.7%
Community Colleges	+5.5%
Branch Campuses	+7.3%
<b>TOTAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>+4.3%</b>

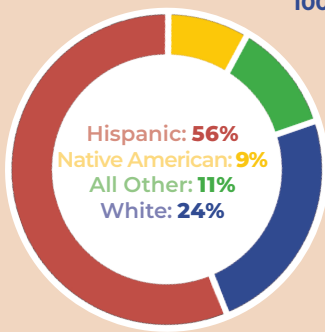
**2019-2022:** First-Time, Full-Time, Degree Seeking Enrollment **-6.4%**

**2021-2022:** First-Time, Full-Time, Degree Seeking Enrollment **+9.8%**

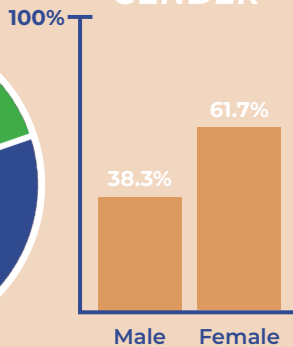
Source: Census Enrollment Headcount Report (2022).

**THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP IS  
 SUPPORTING 36,622 NEW MEXICANS**

**RACE &  
 ETHNICITY**



**GENDER**



Source: Preliminary eDEAR System Data (Fall 2022).

*This past year, over 36,600 New Mexicans benefited from the Opportunity Scholarship and over 11,700 received the Lottery Scholarship.*

*Over \$5.5 million secured for student support services in FY24.*

*\$2 million distributed across 22 campuses for student basic needs initiatives.*



**GOING BEYOND COLLEGE ACCESS:  
 SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS**

As the New Mexico Higher Education Department continues to expand college access and affordability through its 24 financial aid programs, including scholarships, loan repayment programs, and loan-for-service programs, the agency acknowledges that another **shift in strategy must take place to support student's academic persistence and basic needs, especially amongst first-generation, low-income, and other historically underserved students to ensure that they reach graduation day.** For this reason, we worked with the Legislature to secure over \$5.5 million for student support services this past year.



**COLLEGE BASIC NEEDS INITIATIVES**

The state has dedicated over \$2 million across 22 college campuses to basic needs initiatives benefiting college students in food security and mental and behavioral health. Given that New Mexico serves a significant number of high-need students, these interventions aim to address non-academic barriers to college completion and academic success.



**COMMON COURSE NUMBERING PROJECT, STUDENT TRANSFER, & REMEDIATION SUPPORT**

The **New Mexico Common Course Numbering Project** is progressing, which aims to break down academic barriers to **credential completion and ease transfer.** In the final stretch of the project, the agency is adding courses in computer science, engineering, and the trades. Additionally, **reducing remediation rates** continues to be a priority and the state has made progress since 2019, decreasing the remediation rate from 42% to 31%. The agency is supporting a creative co-requisite initiative addressing remedial coursework – a partnership with Central New Mexico Community College, San Juan College, Northern New Mexico College, and Western New Mexico University. This initiative requires a student to enroll in a remedial course simultaneously with a required course, such as math, reading, or writing. Implementing this simultaneous model yields higher pass rates than traditional remedial courses



**RISE NM: THE NEW MEXICO LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM**

New Mexico has invested state funding into **RISE NM – the New Mexico Longitudinal Data System, linking data across early childhood, K-12, higher education, and the workforce.** This multi-agency partnership's first phase will launch at end of this month. Once completed, RISE NM will allow the state and policymakers to use data to observe trends, see what programs work, and where to invest dollars.